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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An engine starting apparatus includes a starter motor rotating when the engine is started, a wedge roller speed reduction mechanism adapted to output a rotation of the starter motor from an output shaft at a reduced speed and to cut off power transmission between the starter motor and the output shaft when the rotational speed of the output shaft exceeds the reduced speed, a pinion gear provided on the output shaft in such a manner as to rotate together with the output shaft and to move axially over the output shaft between an engagement position where the drive gear is mesh engaged with a ring gear and a disengagement position where the pinion gear is disengaged with the ring gear, and a magnet switch for driving the pinion gear to the engagement position when the engine is started and to the disengagement position after the engine has been started.